

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC: BF: SHOBEK, MICHAIAH, AKA SHOFFNER, JAMES MICHAEL

SUBJ: MICHAIAH SHOBEK FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER AND SENTENCED TO
HANG

REF: NASSAU 757 AND PREVIOUS

1. ON MAY 13, 1974, A BAHAMIAN SUPREME COURT JURY FOUND US
CITIZEN MICHAIAH SHOBEK GUILTY OF MURDERING US CITIZEN IRWIN
BORNSTEIN ON JAN 18, 1974 IN NASSAU. SHOBEK WAS SENTENCED TO
BE HANGED.

2. SHOBEK HAD PLEADED NOT GUILTY AS HE AND HIS COURT APPOIN-
TED DEFENSE COUNSEL, RANDOL F. FAWKES, HAD HOPED TO ESTABLISH
THAT SHOBEK WAS CRIMINALLY INSANE. ALTHOUGH SHOBEK HAD TES-
TIFIED, INTER ALIA, TO SEEING VISIONS AND HEARING THE VOICE
OF GOD GIVING HIM ORDER TO DESTROY THE ANGEL OF LUCIFER,
THE PSYCHIATRIST WHO EXAMINED HIM TESTIFIED HE DID NOT HAVE
CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT SHOBEK IS INSANE. WHILE THE PSY-
CHIATRIST DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT AN IN-DEPTH
STUDY ON SHOBEK MIGHT BE SUPPORTIVE OF DELUSIONS AND HALLU-
CINATIONS, THE JURY NEVERTHELESS FOUND HIM GUILTY OF MURDER.

3. WHETHER OR NOT SHOBEK WILL APPEAL HAS NOT YET BEEN DECI-
DED. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE CONSULAR OFFICER, ATTORNEY
FAWKES EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE FOR
SHOBEK TO APPEAL AND ASK FOR FURTHER PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATIONS
IN ANOTHER EFFORT TO ESTABLISH MENTAL INCOMPETENCY. THUS AN
APPEAL IN DUE COURSE SEEMS LIKELY.

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4. SO FAR SHOBEK HAS BEEN TRIED FOR ONLY THE MURDER OF BORN-

STEIN EVEN THOUGH THE BAHAMIAN POLICE HAVE ALSO CHARGED SHO-BEK WITH THE MURDERS OF TWO OTHER US CITIZEN TOURISTS. THE BAHAMIAN SOLICITOR GENERAL INFORMED THE CONSULAR OFFICER THAT THE ABOVE VERDICT HAS NOT CHANGED PREVIOUS PLANS TO PROCEED WITH THE PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES ON THE OTHER TWO CHARGES UPON COMPLETION OF THE TRIAL FOR THE MURDER OF BORNSTEIN. DATES FOR THE PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES HAVE NOT YET BEEN SET HOWEVER. SPIERS

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